

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Tiffanie Willingham,

Plaintiff

v.

Brian Howard dba The Tow Truck Company,

Defendant

Case No.: 2:24-cv-01982-JAD-DJA

**Order Adopting Report and
Recommendation and Dismissing Case**

[ECF No. 4]

After plaintiff Tiffanie Willingham filed this action without paying the required filing fee or applying to proceed *in forma pauperis*, the court ordered her to take such action by December 2, 2024, or face dismissal.¹ Willingham did nothing, so the magistrate judge recommends that this case be dismissed without prejudice.² The deadline for the plaintiff to object to that recommendation was January 20, 2025, and she filed no objection and did not ask to extend the deadline to do so. “[N]o review is required of a magistrate judge’s report and recommendation unless objections are filed.”³ Having reviewed the report and recommendation, I find good cause to adopt it, and I do.

District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal” of a case.⁴ A court may dismiss an action based on a party’s failure to obey a court order or comply with local

¹ ECF No. 3.

² ECF No.4.

³ *Schmidt v. Johnstone*, 263 F. Supp. 2d 1219, 1226 (D. Ariz. 2003); *see also Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140, 150 (1985); *United States v. Reyna-Tapia*, 328 F.3d 1114, 1121 (9th Cir. 2003).

⁴ *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986).

rules.⁵ In determining whether to dismiss an action on this ground, the court must consider: (1) the public’s interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court’s need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.⁶

The first two factors, the public’s interest in expeditiously resolving this litigation and the court’s interest in managing its docket, weigh in favor of dismissal of the plaintiff’s claims. The third factor, risk of prejudice to defendants, also weighs in favor of dismissal because a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in prosecuting an action.⁷ The fourth factor—the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits—is greatly outweighed by the factors favoring dismissal.

The fifth factor requires the court to consider whether less drastic alternatives can be used to correct the party’s failure that brought about the court’s need to consider dismissal.⁸ Courts “need not exhaust every sanction short of dismissal before finally dismissing a case, but must explore possible and meaningful alternatives.”⁹ Because this court cannot operate without

⁵ *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to comply with court order); *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986) (dismissal for lack of prosecution and failure to comply with local rules).

⁶ *In re Phenylpropanolamine Prod. Liab. Litig.*, 460 F.3d 1217, 1226 (9th Cir. 2006) (quoting *Malone v. U.S. Postal Serv.*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987)).

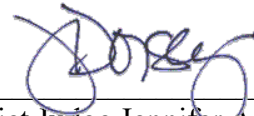
⁷ See *Anderson v. Air West*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976).

⁸ *Yourish v. Cal. Amplifier*, 191 F.3d 983, 992 (9th Cir. 1999) (explaining that considering less drastic alternatives *before* the party has disobeyed a court order does not satisfy this factor); accord *Pagtalunan v. Galaza*, 291 F.3d 639, 643 & n.4 (9th Cir. 2002) (explaining that “the persuasive force of” earlier Ninth Circuit cases that “implicitly accepted pursuit of less drastic alternatives prior to disobedience of the court’s order as satisfying this element[,]” i.e., like the “initial granting of leave to amend coupled with the warning of dismissal for failure to comply[,]” have been “eroded” by *Yourish*).

⁹ *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1424.

1 collecting reasonable fees, and litigation cannot progress without a plaintiff's compliance with
2 court orders, the only alternative is to enter a second order setting another deadline. But issuing
3 a second order will only delay the inevitable and further squander the court's finite resources.
4 Setting another deadline is not a meaningful alternative given these circumstances. So the fifth
5 factor favors dismissal.

6 Having thoroughly weighed these dismissal factors, I find that they weigh in favor of
7 dismissal, IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the magistrate judge's report and
8 recommendation [ECF No. 4] is **ADOPTED** in its entirety. **This case is DISMISSED.** The
9 Clerk of Court is directed to **ENTER JUDGMENT ACCORDINGLY and CLOSE THIS**
10 **CASE.**



U.S. District Judge Jennifer A. Dorsey
Dated: January 22, 2025